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Title: Deposition

Author: Dharzhal T'Ar  
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Regarding: Poisoning of  
Papua's Water Source

I freely, under no  
compulsion, do confess to  
the following:

1. I did, willfully, pour a  
poisonous substance into  
the fountainhead of the  
Gentle River, which is the  
main water supply of the  
people of Papua.

2. I did so without  
personal malice or intent  
to cause harm to anyone  
in Papua.

3. I did so due to death  
threats made against me  
and my family by Lord  
Thrax and his associates,  
the present governing  
body of Papua.

4. I did not poison the  
food given to the  
Empress Rryn Anyai.

Explanation of the  
Admissions:

It is needful that I  
present information about  
the relationship between  
me and Lord Thrax and  
the religion we once  
shared. That relationship,  
and the nature of his  
religion, brought about  
this unhappy state of  
affairs and the crimes I  
committed.

I was once the High  
Priest of the god of  
Lord Thrax, Oggaroth.

When I left the service of that god, Lord Thrax assumed the mantle of the priesthood. Oggaroth is a god of destruction and strife who commissioned Thrax to take revenge upon me. One of the ways that is done is to sacrifice the victim to Oggaroth in a ritual called the Banishment. In it, the shade, or spirit, of the victim is sent into the part of the netherworld where Oggaroth resides. It is tormented by him there, forever. I know this to be true. I have witnessed it. Lord Thrax threatened me and my consort with this fate if we did not do his bidding. He first asked me to produce a type of toxin that could not be cured by normal means. After many months of very hard labors, I produced it. I also created the only antidote for it, though I gave him only partial information on how to apply it. Thrax took these items and sent me away.

Before I left, however, I did poison him with it hoping to make him suffer as he had made me suffer. Unfortunately he was completely cured without using the antidote, though I do not know how exactly. (I did not, as he later claimed, poison Duke Kotare). He found me again and made a deal with me: I must create a stronger, more concentrated, toxin and pour a small amount of it into the fountainhead of the Gentle River far to the south of Papua. I privately scoffed at the idea, convinced that by

the time it would arrive  
at the mouth of the  
river, where the people  
get their water, it would  
be so diluted it would  
have little or no effect  
upon them. What I did  
not reckon on was that  
my act was purely  
symbolic: Lord Thrax had  
found another person or  
persons to add the toxin  
closer to the mouth of  
the river. One of them,  
named Eric, confessed to  
the crime and was later  
tried and hanged, but he  
implicated me as an  
accomplice before his  
death. I had thus  
unwittingly fallen into the  
clever trap Thrax  
created, becoming a handy  
scapegoat should he ever  
need another. This he did  
when the Empress was  
poisoned and when I  
confessed to my part in  
these crimes.

Though the following  
information is irrelevant  
to this case, I deem it  
worthy of statement and  
want it to go on record:

When I had learned Duke  
Kotare had been poisoned  
(with the older, less  
potent variety) while  
incarcerated by Thrax, I  
visited Duchess Lilyth  
Noir and gave her enough  
of the antidote to cure  
him, though I learned he  
had managed that himself.  
I also gave a sample of  
the antidote to Maggy  
Malone for safekeeping  
when Thrax destroyed my  
home looking for supplies  
of the antidote. She  
later returned this to me  
and I was able to get it  
to Duchess Noir for her  
husband.

This poisoning of the

water supply was and is nothing more than a plan hatched by Lord Thrax and his associates to control Papua. He had the water supply poisoned and then came along with the remedy, both of which I, at his behest, produced for him. Appearing to be the town's "savior" and by machinations including bribery, extortion, and murder, he became its "popular" ruler. He did not even give out the complete cure for the poisoning to the citizen-victims, only enough to keep them dependent upon him for their continued existence, at the price of their loyalty to him and his government. He is a tyrant and a murderer and a foe of all who hold the virtues dear.

I call as witnesses for my defense, as material or character witnesses, the following persons whom I pray the court will subpoena for deposition, if not actually to appear at the trial:

Itannar Darkanor  
Lady Skirel  
Duchess Lilyth Noir  
Maggy Malone  
Lady Molly

I ask them to substantiate my claims as well as any charges I have made against Lord Thrax to which they are privy.

Signed as a Truthful  
Witness to the facts of  
this case,

Dharzhal T'Ar